

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291  
Application Number: 09/759,935

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Claims

Claims 1-45 (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system comprising:  
an application server to associate a unique modulator group identifier with one or more modulators that service a plurality of subscriber terminals, the modulator group identifier unique to the one or more modulators;  
the application server to receive from a requesting subscriber terminal of the subscriber terminals a request for video on demand data including a modulator group identifier, to extract and recognize the modulator group identifier from the request for video on demand, to select only one or more of the modulators of the modulator group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the requesting subscriber terminal; and  
a data formatter to periodically insert the modulator group identifier into communications directed only to the subscriber terminals served by the one or more modulators of the modulator group.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising:  
a program selector to assign to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected modulators and to communicate to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of the at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising a video server to periodically communicate the modulator group identifiers as part of program streams.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48 the video server periodically communicating the modulator group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.

50. (Previously Presented) A method of providing video on demand, comprising:

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associating a unique modulator group identifier with one or more modulators that service a plurality of subscriber terminals, the group identifier unique to the one or more modulators;

receiving from a requesting subscriber terminal of a particular modulator group a request for video on demand data including a group identifier for the modulator group;

extracting and recognizing the modulator group identifier from the request for video on demand;

selecting only modulators of the modulator group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the subscriber terminal; and

periodically inserting the modulator group identifier into communications directed only to subscriber terminals served by the modulator group.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

assigning to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected modulators and communicating to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising periodically communicating the modulator group identifiers as part of program streams.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 further comprising periodically communicating the modulator group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.